

Appln. No.: 09/722,177
Amdt. Dated March 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated December 30, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A postage metering system, comprising:
a computer;
an authentication unit in operative communication with the computer;
a printer in operative communication with the computer, the printer including an
unsecure print head and a secure print head; and
a control system in operative communication with the computer, the authentication
unit and the printer, the control system for:
executing a transaction session between the computer and the authentication
unit to generate postal data to be included in a postal indicium, the
postal indicium including non-authorization data;
initiating a print request to print the postal indicium; and
controlling the unsecure print head to print the non-authorization data and the
secure print head to print forensic evidence of the authenticity of the
postal indicia.
2. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.
3. (Currently Amended) The postage metering system of claim 2, wherein:
the control system is further for:
preventing printing by the unsecure ~~first~~ print head until an appropriate signal
is generated by the ~~second~~ secure print head.
4. (Currently Amended) The postage metering system of claim 3, wherein:

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the control system is further for:

initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second~~secure print head and the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second~~secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

5. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print head; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.
6. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 5, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.
7. (Currently Amended) The postage metering system of claim 6, wherein:
the control system is further for:
preventing printing by the ~~first~~unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the ~~second~~secure print head.
8. (Currently Amended) The postage metering system of claim 7, wherein:
the control system is further for:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second~~secure print head and the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second~~secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a postage metering system to print a postal indicium having non-authorization ~~non-authentication~~ data, the method comprising the step(s) of:
executing a transaction session between a computer and an authentication unit to generate postal data to be included in the postal indicium;

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transmitting a print request to a printer to print the postal indicium, the printer
including an unsecure print head and a secure print head;
printing the non-authorization data with the unsecure print head; and
printing forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia with the secure print
head.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the ~~first-unsecure~~ print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the ~~second-secure~~ print head.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second-secure~~ print head and
the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second-secure~~ print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print
head; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the ~~first-unsecure~~ print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the ~~second-secure~~ print head.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 715, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second-secure~~ print head and
the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second-secure~~ print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.
17. (Original) A document printing system, comprising:
a computer;
an authentication unit in operative communication with the computer;
a printer in operative communication with the computer, the printer including an
unsecure print head and a secure print head; and
a control system in operative communication with the computer, the authentication
unit and the printer, the control system for:
executing a transaction session between the computer and the authentication
unit to generate document data to be included in a document, the
document data including content data;
initiating a print request to print the document; and
controlling the unsecure print head to print the content data and the secure
print head to print forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document.

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18. (Original) The document printing system of claim 17, wherein:
the document data further includes authorization data; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is the authorization data.
19. (Currently Amended) The document printing system of claim 18, wherein:
the control system is further for:
preventing printing by the first-unsecure print head until an appropriate signal
is generated by the ~~second-secure~~ print head.
20. (Currently Amended) The document printing system of claim 19, wherein:
the control system is further for:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second-secure~~ print
head and the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second-secure~~ print head if the mutual
authentication is unsuccessful.
21. (Original) The document printing system of claim 17, wherein:
the document data further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print
head; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is a unique print pattern.
22. (Original) The document printing system of claim 21, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the document.
23. (Currently Amended) The document printing system of claim 22, wherein:
the control system is further for:
preventing printing by the first-unsecure print head until an appropriate signal
is generated by the ~~second-secure~~ print head.
24. (Currently Amended) The document printing system of claim 23, wherein:

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the control system is further for:

initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second-secure~~ print head and the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second-secure~~ print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a document printing system to print a document having non-authorization ~~non-authentication~~ data, the method comprising the step(s) of:

executing a transaction session between a computer and an authentication unit to generate content data to be included in the document;
transmitting a print request to a printer to print the document, the printer including an unsecure print head and a secure print head;
printing the content data with the unsecure print head; and
printing forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia with the secure print head.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:
the document further includes authorization data; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the ~~first-unsecure~~ print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the ~~second-secure~~ print head.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second-secure~~ print head and the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second-secure~~ print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

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29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:
the document further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print head;
and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is a unique print pattern.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the document.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the ~~first-unsecure~~ print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the ~~second-secure~~ print head.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the ~~second-secure~~ print head and
the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the ~~second-secure~~ print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.